

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 4 – 19, 24, and 26 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4 – 19, and 26 are amended only with respect to form and claims 23, 25, and 27 – 30 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 20, and 22 were previously cancelled. Applicant submits that no new matter is entered into the application.

Examiner Interview

On Friday, August 1, 2008, Examiner Luu called and left a voice mail for Applicant's representative (undersigned) to ask whether the applicant would consider cancelling claims in order place the application in condition for allowance.

On Monday, August 4, 2008, Examiner Luu and Applicant's representative discussed this application via telephone. Examiner Luu indicated that claim 24 and its dependent claims are allowable. Examiner Luu also indicated that the remaining claims could be cancelled in order to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Shortly thereafter, Applicant's representative replied via telephone with an agreement to cancel claims, other than claim 24 and its dependent claims, in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

While discussing the procedural step to take in order to carry out the amendment, Applicant's representative noted that several of the claims included informalities; reference character designation in parenthetical expressions.

Examiner Luu and Applicant's representative agreed that a supplemental amendment could be filed to i) cancel claims other than claim 24 and its dependent claims and ii) delete the reference character designations. This supplemental amendment is filed to make these amendments.

In making the amendments, Applicant also noted that claims included the expression "characterized in that" instead of "wherein,". In addition, claim 26 included an additional grammar informality. This supplementary amendment corrects these informalities.

No amendment of substance is made to any of the pending claims. No amendment of the pending claims in this supplemental amendment relates to reasons of patentability. The amendments made herein are made to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Applicant thanks Examiner Luu for conducting the telephonic interviews reviewed above and for his indication that claim 24 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 2, 4 – 19, 24, and 26, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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